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June 28, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Minutes of the Meeting of the Special Group (CI)
10:30 a.m., Friday, June 28, 1963

PRESENT: Governor Harriman, The Attorney General, Mr. Gilpatrick, Mr. Bell,
General Taylor, Mr. Murrow, Mr. Forrestal, Mr. Karammesines vice
Mr. McCone

NSC REVIEW
COMPLETED,
6/26/2003

Ambassador Holmes and Mr. Bowling were present for Item No. 1
Mr. Fisher, Mr. Godfrey were present for Item No. 2.
Captain Mack was present for Item No. 3
Mr. Maechling was present for the meeting

1. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Iran

Mr. Bowling reviewed the highlights of the progress report on the Internal Defense Plan. He pointed out that the Army had performed well in quelling the recent Mullah-inspired severe riots in Tehran and other cities. There was no indication that the tribal groups were involved in these riots. He believes that the most serious threat to internal security still emanates from developments in Kurdistan. Tribal unrest in the south is diminishing and the Iranian Government is now distributing food in this area and the military forces are now being redeployed. Despite these developments, the Shah is determined to push ahead with the reform program, and elections will probably be held in September.

Mr. Bowling commented that conflicting reports have been received on the effectiveness of the national police in handling the recent riots and that the Country Team is preparing a detailed analysis of their performance. This analysis will be reviewed by an Interagency Police Group to determine whether or not expanded U.S. efforts are required.

In response to the Country Team's request for five additional warrant officers with military police background, as advisors for the Gendarmerie, Mr. Gilpatrick stated that if the Ambassador believes these advisors are required, the Department of Defense will take the necessary action to provide them. Ambassador Holmes responded that he still believed that the warrant officers should be so assigned. Mr. Gilpatrick agreed to make available the five warrant officers requested.

Ambassador Holmes commented that the National Police did not behave very effectively in the recent riots, but on the other hand no one anticipated that the riots would reach such serious proportions. In any event, they would have been beyond the police capability to handle and the military would have been required to intervene. He believes that existing police support programs are adequate and desires to review the situation before submitting any recommendations for additional programs. The Ambassador observed that he does

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not believe that serious riots will break out again as the security forces will be alert to take proper precautionary measures. He added that favorable developments resulting from these riots were that the reliability of the Army was demonstrated, and major student groups did not actively participate in the actual rioting.

Ambassador Holmes in commenting on the economic situation pointed out that efforts are being made by the Country Team to modify the conservative fiscal policy of the Iranian Government. He stated that a principal reason for business stagnation was the lack of confidence in the economic and land reform programs. The Ambassador is hopeful that we will be able to make progress in stimulating understanding and action by the Iranians to solve these economic problems.

Ambassador Holmes briefly reviewed the land reform program developments and pointed out that this program is going well.

In response to the Attorney General's question, Ambassador Holmes reviewed the youth programs in Iran. He observed that the situation in the University of Tehran has improved to a considerable extent.

The Group approved the progress report for planning purposes.

2. Progress Report on the Internal Defense Plan for Guatemala

Mr. Fisher summarized for the Group developments in Guatemala following the overthrow of the Ydigoras Government. He pointed out that there is no likelihood of return to power of Arevalo and that the present Government has made a promising beginning in bringing stability to the country. Present indications are that this government will fulfill their obligations under the Alliance for Progress.

Mr. Fisher commented that youth and police programs are progressing well. The Chairman stated that he was concerned over social progress in Guatemala and will have this matter looked into.

The Group approved the progress report for planning purposes.

3. Military Counterinsurgency Progress Including Civic Action Since December 27, 1962

General Taylor in commenting on the Military Counterinsurgency Programs pointed out that administrative actions are now being sought to reduce the long lead time for delivery of certain items of MAP equipment. He stated that the need still exists for developing a simple counterinsurgency aircraft for use by indigenous forces. Following a discussion on the need for this type of aircraft, General Taylor agreed to report back to the Group in detail on what has been done to develop an aircraft of this type.

General Taylor commented that the Armed Forces Assistance to Korea (AFAK) Program has been doing an outstanding job since its inception and stated that

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it is in the interest of the U.S. to continue to support this worthwhile program. Mr. Bell commented that the funding for this program is under consideration by AID.

General Taylor stated that there are no unfilled requirements world-wide for U.S. specially trained counterinsurgency forces. He also indicated that there are no unfilled requests for foreign officers to receive counter-insurgency training in U.S. military schools. General Taylor observed that our U.S. military schools can absorb additional trainees and recommended that our Ambassadors overseas should be informed of the availability of quotas for these schools. The Chairman agreed to take the necessary action within State to see that this is done and requested that a Defense representative be made available to present a briefing on this subject.

4. Follow-up Report on Programs to Restrict Infiltration into Northeast Thailand

This item was deferred for consideration until the next meeting.

Miscellaneous

A. The Group agreed with General Taylor's recommendations that henceforth all agencies should submit progress reports on counterinsurgency programs effective February 1 and July 1. These reports will be utilized to prepare a report to the President on the status of the government's overall counterinsurgency effort.

B. Mr. Murrow informed the Group that the portable radio transmitter is now planned to be in operation in Thailand on September 15, 1963.

James W. Dingeman
James W. Dingeman
Executive Secretary
Special Group (CI)

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